Mobile service in Madhya Pradesh

948. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Madhya Pradesh where mobile service is available at present;

(b) the number of districts in the State where this services has not been launched; and

(c) by when, this service would be provided in the remaining districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, except for one District of Anooppur, Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is available in one or more towns of all the other 47 districts in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) As per the Licence Agreement of CMTs, in Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the district Headquarters (DHQs) are to be covered in the first year and 50% of the district Headquarters within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the district Headquarters. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of entire service area with the service. The choice of district Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% district Headquarters/towns lies with the Licensee depending on its business decision.

Telephone to villages

949. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide telephone to all the revenue villages in the country;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the purpose; and

(c) what progress has been made in that regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 6,07,491 villages, Village Public Telephone (VPT) has been provided in 5,17,814 villages as on 31.10.2003. Of the remaining 89,677 villages, provision of VPTs in 33,365 villages is not feasible at present as majority of these villages have population less than 100 and some of them are naxalite and insurgency affected. 25,668 villages can only be covered using satellite media. Excluding the above categories, the remaining villages to be covered with VPT are 30,644.

BSNL has fixed target to cover its share of remaining villages with VPT during year 2003-04.

Private Basic operators were asked to fulfil their share of covering remaining villages with VPT by December, 2003. But with the migration to Unified Access Service (UAS) Licence, the rollout obligation of Private Basic Service Operators also gets modified to the rollout obligation of fourth Cellular Operator who do not have any rollout obligation in terms of number of VPTs. The provision of remaining VPTs will not be funded as a part of rural telephone network programme funded through Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund.

(c) State-wise progress made so far by BSNL and Private operators are given in the Statement.

Statement

Progress in respect of VPTs upto 31.10.2003

Sl. No.	Circles	Total No. of Revenue villages	Villages covered by BSNL	Villages covered by Private Operators	Total villages covered
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	201	198	—	198
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	23419	1408	24827
3.	Assam	24685	18068	—	18068
4.	Bihar	41077	38475	—	38475
5.	Jharkhand	31703	26318	—	26318

Sl. No.	Circles	Total No. of Revenue villages	Villages covered by BSNL	Villages covered by Private Operators	Total villages covered
6.	Gujarat	18125	11214	4114	15328
7.	Haryana	6850	6811		6811
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16925	16587		16587
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	4715		4715
10.	Karnataka	27066	27066		27066
11.	Kerala	1468	1468		1468
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	37601	611	38212
13.	Chhattisgarh	19720	14665		14665
14.	Maharashtra	42467	31541	2643	34184
15.	North East I	7125	3456	—	3456
16.	North East II	7020	2586		2586
17.	Orissa	46989	40547		40547
18.	Punjab	12687	12687	879*	12687
19.	Rajasthan	39483	23858	3010	26868
20.	Tamil Nadu	17899	17899		17899
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	79792	75997		75997
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	23604	21268		21268
23.	Uttaranchal	15610	11650		11650
24.	West Bengal	38337	37306		37306
25.	Kolkata	437	437		437
26.	Delhi	191	191		191
	TOTAL:	607491	506028	11786	517814

*879 MARR replaced by Private operator.

WLL Technology in rural and semi-urban areas

950. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to